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No. 71

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 4, 2002.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RAY LAHOOD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, You know our comings and our goings, You create an awareness of the inner world, as well as the mystery of everything external that contains the energy of life.

As Members of Congress return today to do their work, be with them in every decision which will guide our Nation's health and purpose.

Bent over by our memorializing this past week, we lean into Your mercy. For to remember brings to mind our bloody past as well as the victory of freedom over oppression. Images of planes, cemeteries and graduations combine to raise questions regarding the fullness of life and the weight of justice.

Distant memory of war-filled veterans dance with near vibrant figures of 9-11's victims as the House remembers itself. Make us a living body of hope in a world gripped by fear of numbers beyond zero, disgusted by continuing retaliations and rumors of mountain war.

May memorial bring to life Your steadfast love to guide our destiny now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ROEMER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1366. An Act to designate the United States Post Office building located at 3101 West Sunflower Avenue in Santa Ana, California, as the "Hector G. Godinez Post Office Building".

H.R. 1374. An Act to designate the facility of United States Postal Service located at 600 Calumet Street in Lake Linden, Michigan, as the "Philip E. Ruppe Post Office Building".

H.R. 3789. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2829 Commercial Way in Rock Springs, Wyoming, as the "Teno Roncalio Post Office Building".

H.R. 3960. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3719 Highway 4 in Jay, Florida, as the "Joseph W. Westmoreland Post Office Building".

H.R. 4486. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1590 East Joyce Boulevard in Fayetteville, Arkansas, as the "Clarence B. Craft Post Office Building".

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment

in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3009. An Act to extend the Andean Trade Preference Act, to grant additional trade benefits under that Act, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill and a concurrent resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1983. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 Main Street, Lake Placid, New York, as the "John A. 'Jack' Shea Post Office Building".

S. Con. Res. 109. Concurrent resolution commemorating the independence of East Timor, and for other purposes.

DISPENSING WITH CALL OF PRIVATE CALENDAR ON TODAY

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the call of the Private Calendar be dispensed with today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

PERMANENT DEATH TAX REPEAL

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in politics, money often equals power. When Washington takes more money from the American people, the government becomes more powerful and the people lose just as much control over their own lives.

A year ago, Congress took the dramatic step of returning power to the people. We passed the largest tax relief package since the Reagan administration, and it was relief that benefitted

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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every American taxpayer. But because there was liberal opposition in the Senate, we had to agree to a sunset provision. In 10 years, the marriage penalty, the death tax, and a whole host of other taxes will shoot right back up to where they were unless we make them permanent.

This week, we will be voting to make the death tax repeal permanent. For years, the death tax has taken as much as 55 to 60 percent of the value of a family farm or small business just to pay the taxes. This is a terrible tax and we should get rid of it for good.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, return power to the American people, and get rid of the death tax once and for all.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, we all know that today prescription drugs are a fact of life and a fact of death. The average American senior uses 18 prescription drugs each year, and the cost of those lifesaving drugs keeps going up.

That is why it is our responsibility as Members of Congress to enact a comprehensive prescription drug benefit plan, but it must be a plan that benefits all seniors and that it is not the kind of plan that our GOP leadership has proposed. Under their plan, only some seniors in limited scenarios will actually benefit.

Seniors should be spending time with their grandchildren, not trying to figure out how to pay for the medicines they need to live. Let us not make Americans' golden years, when they are seniors, into their darkest years, forcing them to choose between paying for food and paying for their medication. Seniors deserve better than that.

My Republican colleagues need to stop stalling. They need to come up with a meaningful proposal. They need to start helping seniors by providing a real prescription drug benefit.

HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to a disease which affects thousands of people in the United States. Approximately 30,000 people in the United States suffer from Huntington's Disease. Each child of a parent with Huntington's Disease has a 50 percent risk of inheriting the illness, meaning that there are more than 200,000 individuals who are at risk today.

Huntington's Disease results from a genetically programmed degeneration of nerve cells in certain parts of the brain. While medication is available to

help control symptoms of Huntington's Disease, there is no treatment to stop or reverse the course of the disease.

I would like to commend Dr. Ruth Abramson of Columbia, South Carolina, for her leadership and dedication in the fight against Huntington's Disease.

I encourage the American people to be aware of their own family histories, to be aware of the issues in genetic testing, and to advocate for families with Huntington's Disease in their communities, such as the Wayne and Ouida Dell family of Ridgeland, South Carolina. I also call on my colleagues in the House to join me in this effort to find a cure for those suffering from this disease.

MAKE TAX RELIEF PERMANENT

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, today this House will consider two bills under suspension which will make parts of the tax relief package that we passed last year permanent. I encourage all my colleagues to support these bills and to support making last year's tax relief bill permanent in its entirety.

By not doing so, we will force thousands of married couples to once again pay the unfair marriage penalty tax beginning in 2010. We will force thousands of small business owners to sell their companies for fear that they will not be able to afford the estate tax that will be reinstated.

Americans approved of last year's tax relief package. Now it is time to make it permanent to ensure that Americans do not face the largest tax increase in history in just a few years.

Mr. Speaker, this past week I met with many Nevadans, and this was the message they wanted me to bring back to Washington: Make tax relief permanent.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from The Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 28, 2002.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 24, 2002 at 2:31 pm.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 356.

Appointment:
N.A.T.O. Parliamentary Assembly.
With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

MARTHA C. MORRISON
(For Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House).

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, May 28, 2002.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed are copies of resolutions adopted on May 22, 2002 by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Copies of the resolutions are being transmitted to the Department of the Army. Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

Enclosures.

RESOLUTION: DOCKET 2659—SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK WATERSHED, CALIFORNIA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That, the Secretary of the Army, in accordance with Section 4 of the Flood Control Act of 1941, is hereby requested to conduct a study of the Guadalupe River and Tributaries, California, to determine whether flood damage reduction, environmental restoration and protection, storm water retention, water conservation and supply, recreation and other allied purposes are advisable in the interest of the San Francisquito Creek Watershed, including San Francisquito Creek, Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, California.

Adopted: May 22, 2002.

ATTEST:

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

RESOLUTION: DOCKET 2660—PORT HUENEME, CALIFORNIA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That, the Secretary of the Army, is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on Port Hueneme, California, published as House Document 362, 83rd Congress, 2nd Session, and other pertinent reports, to determine whether modifications to recommendations contained therein are advisable time in the interest of shoreline protection, storm damage reduction, navigation improvements, environmental restoration and protection and other allied purposes along the shores of the City of Port Hueneme and adjacent areas, Ventura County, California.

Adopted: May 22, 2002.

ATTEST:

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

RESOLUTION: DOCKET 2661—LITTLE WABASH RIVER WATERSHED, INDIANA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That, the Secretary of the Army, is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Comprehensive Study of Wabash River Basin, published as House Document 100, 73rd Congress, 1st Session, and other pertinent reports, to determine the feasibility of providing flood damage reduction, environmental restoration and protection, and related purposes in the Little Wabash River Basin, Indiana.